1. (original): 3-aryl-2-cyano-3-hydroxy-acrylic acid derivates of formula

'(1a) · ; (1b) or (1c) ,
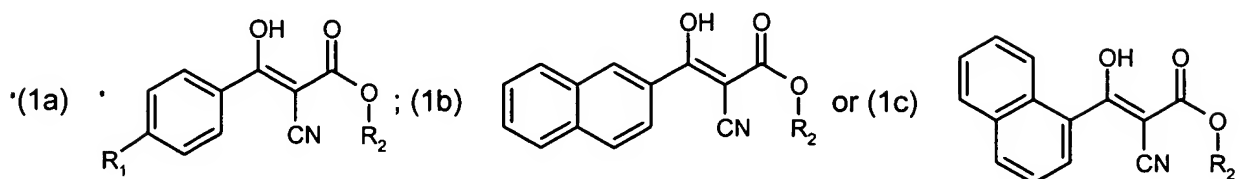
wherein

R_1 is hydrogen, C_1-C_{20}alkyl; C_1-C_{20}alkoxy; CF_3; C_6-C_{10}aryl; or a radical of
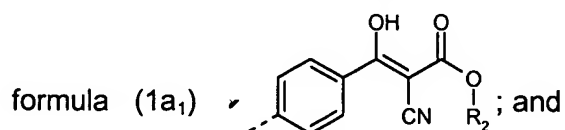
formula (1a$_1$)   ; and

R_2 is hydrogen; or C_1-C_{20}alkyl.

2. (original): Compounds of formula (1a) according to claim 1, wherein
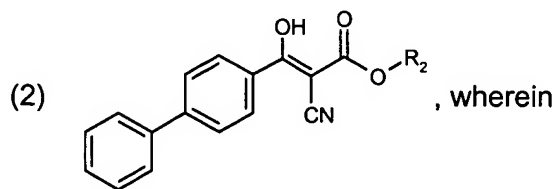R_1 is C_6-C_{10}aryl.

3. (currently amended): Compounds according to claim 1 or 2, wherein
R_1 is phenyl.

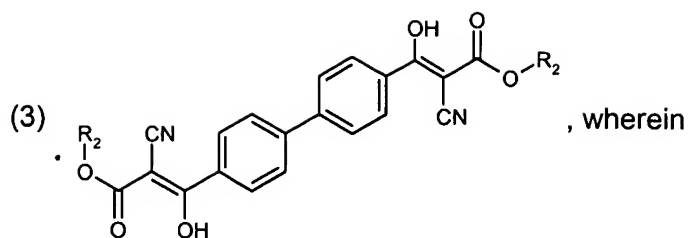4. (currently amended): Compounds according to one of claims 1 to 3 claim 1, wherein
R_2 is C_1-C_{20}alkyl.

5. (currently amended): Compounds according to one of claims 1 to 4 claim 1, which correspond to formula

(2) , wherein

R_2 is C_1-C_{20}alkyl.

6. (currently amended): Compounds according to one of claims 1 to 4 claim 1, which correspond to formula

(3)

, wherein

R_2 is C_1-C_{20}alkyl.

.7. (currently amended): Compounds according to ~~one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, which correspond to formulae
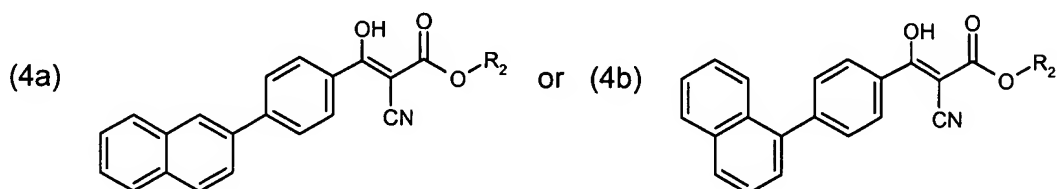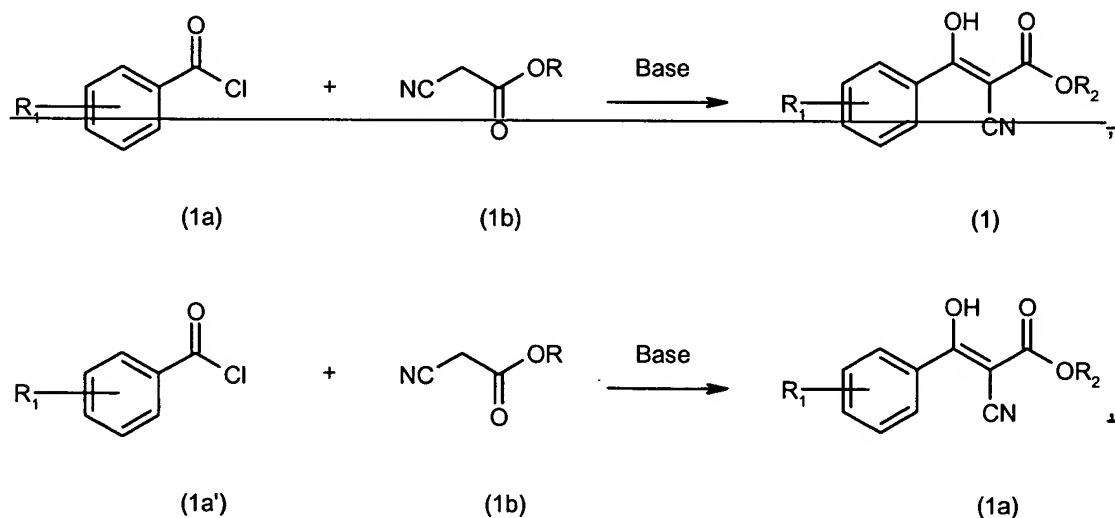
(4a)

or (4b)

wherein

R_2 is C_1-C_{20}alkyl.

8. (currently amended): Process for the preparation of the compounds of formula (1a) according to claim 1, which comprises condensing the cyanoacetate of formula ~~(1a)~~ (1b) with the carbon acid chloride of formula ~~(1b)~~ (1a') to the compound of formula (1a) according to the following reaction scheme:

| (1a) | (1b) | (1) |

| (1a') | (1b) | (1a) |

wherein

R_1 and R_2 are defined as in claim 1.

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9. (currently amended): ~~Use of the compounds of formulae (1a), (1b) or (1c) according to any of claims 1 to 7~~ A method for the antimicrobial treatment of surfaces, which comprises treating said surfaces with an antimicrobially effective amount of a compound of formulae (1a), (1b) or (1c) according to claim 1.

10. (currently amended): ~~Use of the compound of formulae (1a), (1b) or (1c) according to claim 9 iin~~ method for the antimicrobial treatment, deodorisation and disinfection of the skin, mucosa ~~and~~ or hair, which comprises treating said skin, mucosa or hair with an antimicrobially effective amount of a compound of formulae (1a), (1b) or (1c) according to claim 1.

11. (currently amended): A method ~~Use~~ according to claim 10, wherein treatment with the compound of formulae (1a), (1b) or (1c) results in ~~are used for~~ the prevention of the adhesion of bacteria on surfaces and the further forming of ~~the biofilmes~~ biofilms and ~~for~~ detaching the biofilm and/or ~~for~~ the inhibition of the ~~groth~~ growth of ~~the~~ biofilm-~~-~~forming microorganisms in ~~the~~ a biological matrix or ~~for~~ killing them.

12. (currently amended): A method according to claim 9, wherein ~~Use of the compound of formulae (1a), (1b) or (1c) for the treatment of~~ textile fibre materials are treated.

13. (currently amended): A method ~~Use~~ according to claim 9, wherein the compound of formulae (1a), (1b) or (1c) are used in preservation.

14. (currently amended): A method according ~~Use acciording~~ to claim 9, wherein the compound of formulae (1a), (1b) or (1c) is incorporated ~~are used~~ into washing and cleaning formulations.

15. (currently amended): A method ~~Use~~ according to claim 9, wherein the compound of formulae (1a), (1b) or (1c) ~~are used~~ results in imparting antimicrobial properties to, and preserving, plastics, paper, nonwovens, wood or leather.

16. (currently amended): A method according to claim 9, wherein ~~Use of~~ the compounds of formulae (1a), (1b) or (1c) ~~for~~ results in imparting antimicrobial properties to, and preserving technical products.

17. (currently amended): A method according to claim 9, wherein ~~Use of~~ the compounds of formulae (1a), (1b) or (1c) is employed as a biocide in technical processes.

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18. (original): A personal care preparation comprising

from 0.01 to 15 % by weight, based on the total weight of the composition, of a compound of formulae (1a), (1b) or (1c) and cosmetically tolerable adjuvants.

19. (original): An oral composition comprising from 0.01 to 15 % by weight, based on the total weight of the composition, of a compound of formulae (1a), (1b) or (1c), and orally tolerable adjuvants.

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